

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 02225 071542Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 AID-05 /082 W  
-----097305 071545Z /72

P R 062114Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8537  
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2225

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, HA, DR  
SUBJ: HAITIAN REACTION TO DOMINICAN ELECTIONS

SUMMARY. HAITIANS ARE FASCINATED WITH THE EMERGENCE OF ANTONIO GUZMAN AS PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. SENIOR HAITIAN OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A BALAGUER VICTORY, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT RELATIONS WITH A NEIGHBOR GOVERNED BY A PARTY THEY CONSIDER "LEFTIST," VIEW THE PROCESS AS SOME FORM OF U.S.-INSPIRED PLOT, AND SPECULATE ENDLESSLY ABOUT WHAT IT IMPLIES FOR HAITI'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE MEDIA AND WHAT PASSES FOR PUBLIC OPINION IN HAITI HOPE THAT THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS WILL FORCE A FASTER PACE OF LIBERALIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. NEWS ABOUT THE DOMINICAN ELECTIONS DOMINATED THE LOCAL MEDIA FOR THREE WEEKS AND THERE ARE A MULTITUDE OF OPINIONS ON WHAT THE EVENTS MEAN FOR HAITI. MOST BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAD HOPED FOR A CONVINCING BALAGUER VICTORY AND A CONTINUATION OF THE FORMAL AND PREDICTABLE STATUS QUO OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. HAITIAN LEADERS HAVE UNPLEASANT MEMORIES OF THE PRD IN ITS JUAN BOSCH INCARNATION AND STILL VIEW IT AS LEFTIST. STATEMENTS THAT THE PRD GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK BETTER RELATIONS WITH CUBA ARE CITED AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 02225 071542Z

EVIDENCE. EVEN MORE DISTURBING TO A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NOT HELD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 21 YEARS IS THE EXAMPLE OF AN OPPOSITION VICTORY IN A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ON ITS VERY BORDER.

2. THE GOH ENJOYED A COMFORTABLE MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE BALAGUER REGIME IN RECENT YEARS WHILE US AID LEVELS IN HAITI

OUTSTRIPPED THOSE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. PRESIDENT CARTER'S THREAT TO CUT OFF AID TO THE DOMINICANS, UNLESS THE ELECTION PROCESS WAS STRICTLY OBSERVED, SHOCKED THE HAITIAN LEADERSHIP WHICH TENDS TO PERSONALIZE POLITICS AND IS BAFFLED BY WHAT IT REGARDS AS OUR ABRUPT ABANDONMENT OF BALAGUER FOR GUZMAN. FANCIFUL RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THAT THE U.S. SOMEHOW ENGINEERED THE WHOLE THING AND NOW HAS DESIGNS ON HAITI; THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL ATTEND GUZMAN'S INAUGURATION; AND THAT THE NEW PRD GOVERNMENT WILL BE FAVORED FOR ASSISTANCE OVER HAITI.

3. AS THE DOMINICAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN REACHED ITS CLIMAX THESE FEARS WERE MANIFESTED BY INTIMATIONS OF HIGH-LEVEL HAITIAN CONCERN THAT THE US WOULD INSIST ON IMMEDIATE ELECTIONS IN HAITI AS WELL. WE RESPONDED BY REITERATING OUR POLICY OF WELCOMING ANY COUNTRY'S EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD A MORE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE TIMETABLE FOR SUCH EFFORTS IS ENTIRELY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

4. A FEW OF PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S ADVISORS HAVE BEEN TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF SOME KIND OF "LEGITIMIZATION" OF HIS RULE EITHER THROUGH A RENUNCIATION OF THE PRESIDENCY-FOR-LIFE AND ELECTION TO A FIXED TERM OF OFFICE OR, MORE LIKELY, A PLEBISCITE CONFIRMING THE EXISTING SYSTEM. THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT CONCENTRATION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY, RATHER THAN DUCK  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT A 02225 071542Z

HUNTING, DURING HIS INCREASINGLY FREQUENT JAUNTS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE--AND THE FORMATION OF THE NEW QUASI-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION CONAJEC (PAP 1505, PAP 1772)--LEND SOME CREDENCE TO THESE REPORTS. BALAGUER'S DEFEAT WILL MAKE JEAN CLAUDE DUVALIER AND HIS ADVISORS EVEN MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT TOO MUCH "DEMOCRATIZATION."

5. HAITIAN POPULAT OPINION, INsofar AS IT CAN BE MEASURED, IS SYMPATHETIC TO GUZMAN'S VICTORY. THE PARALLELS WITH HAITI WERE MOST CLEARLY SPELLED OUT BY JEAN DOMINIQUE, OWNER/DIRECTOR OF RADIO HAITI INTER, WHO PERSONALLY COVERED THE ELECTIONS IN SANTO DOMINGO. IN AN ELECTION WRAP-UP HE UNDERSCORED THE RELATIONSHIP OF HIGH AMERICAN AID LEVELS AND THE PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE DOMINICAN POLITICAL PROCESS. ALTHOUGH FEW HAITIANS HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS OF OPEN ELECTIONS ON THE DOMINICAN MODEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, MANY HOPE THAT THE GOH WILL BE FORCED TO FOLLOW IT THROUGH ON ITS OWN PROMISES OF "DEMOCRATIZATION" AND THAT AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO CHANGES IN HAITI'S POLITICAL SYSTEM. SUCH ASPIRATIONS PROBABLY ARE PIPE-DREAMING BUT THE GOH IS CLEARLY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE POLICIES OF A PRD GOVERNMENT AND THE CONTINUING INFLUENCE OF DOMINICAN EVENTS ON THE HAITIAN

BODY POLITIC.

6. FOR THE TIME BEING THE GOH HAS DECIDED TO PLAY IT COOL. PRESIDENT DUVALIER SENT A WARM MESSAGE TO THE DOMINICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR ELECTION AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF OUR SISTER REPUBLIC I HAVE THE HONOR TO ADDRESS TO YOU, TOGETHER WITH MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS, MY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR PERSONAL WELL-BEING, FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MEASURES YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE, AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH UNITE OUR TWO COUNTRIES." THE GOH WILL PROBABLY ADOPT A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE REGARDING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD HAITI. A KEY FACTOR WILL PRESUMABLY BE THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PORT A 02225 071542Z

PRD SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, A SORBONNE-EDUCATED INTELLECTUAL WHOSE HAITIAN ANTECEDANTS HAVE BEEN PLAYED DOWN WITHIN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. IN A PRE-ELECTION INTERVIEW IN FRENCH WITH A HAITIAN REPORTER HE WAS APPROPRIATELY GUARDED ABOUT FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS, STATING ONLY THAT A PRD GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEM.

JONES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESIDENT ELECT, OPPOSITION PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTA02225  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780238-0010  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780691/aaaadaos.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 68066e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2475902  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HAITIAN REACTION TO DOMINICAN ELECTIONS SUMMARY. HAITIANS ARE FASCINATED WITH THE EMERGENCE OF ANTONIO GUZMAN AS PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE DOMINICAN RE PUBLI  
**TAGS:** PEPR, HA, DR, (GUZMAN, ANTONIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/68066e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014